

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36, 40, 43-44 and 46-55 have been cancelled.

Claims 37-39, 41-42, 45, and 56 remain pending in the application.

The Examiner has allowed claims 37-39 and 56 and has stated that claims 41, 42, and 45 are allowable.

The rejected claims have been cancelled, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections moot.

Claims 37, 41 and 45 have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. Therefore, claims 37, 41, and 45 are now also allowable.

In view of the amendments to the claims made herein and the arguments presented above it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn and that the Application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A petition for a three-month extension of time with the requisite fee is attached herewith.

In the event that any other extensions and/or fees are required for the entry of this Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the

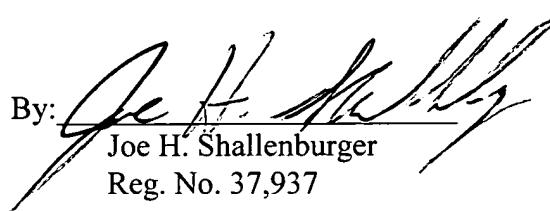
Appl. No. 09/852,987
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Reply to Office Action of July 9, 2003

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undersigned to discuss the same.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By: 
Joe H. Shallenburger
Reg. No. 37,937

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 768-3800